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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

MATCHETT et al.

Serial Number: 09/838,123

Group Art Unit: 2131

Filed: April 20, 2001

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: CRYPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEM WITH ENHANCED ENCRYPTION FUNCTION AND
CIPHER KEY FOR DATA ENCRYPTION STANDARD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 10, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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Technology Center 2100

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a1
The present invention is generally directed to data encryption or cryptography, and more specifically, to an improved Data Encryption Standard (DES) cryptographic system for cryptographic protection of data through modifications to the cipher function and cipher key as specified in the DES.